

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a cannula having a passage to percutaneously access a site proximate opposed surfaces of a bone joint; and

a retractor including a shaft that has a first lumen extending therethrough and an inflatable bladder disposed ~~at the~~ adjacent a distal end of the shaft, said retractor being introducible through the cannula passage so that the bladder may be positioned between the opposed surfaces, the inflatable bladder configured to separate the opposed surfaces when expanded, thereby defining a working space therebetween, said inflatable bladder including a ~~lumen~~ an opening extending therethrough~~[[,]] the lumen connecting a proximal end of the retractor with the working space~~ such that a surgical instrument is ~~introducible~~ may traverse the first lumen and the opening thereby entering into the working space.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder is eccentrically shaped or mounted on the shaft.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not substantially stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 10 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 100 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially rigid.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially flexible.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A system as in any of claims 1 or 4-9, further comprising a viewing scope.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, further comprising an interventional instrument.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the opposed surfaces include bone tissue and soft tissue.

Claim 13 (New): A system as in claim 1, wherein the retractor is movable through the passage such that the inflatable bladder is repositionable with respect to the cannula.

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Claim 14 (New): A system as in claim 13, wherein relative movement between the cannula and the expanded inflatable bladder separates tissue between the opposed surfaces.